

Local Plan Sub-Committee AGENDA



THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND THIS MEETING

Please note this meeting will be webcast and audio recorded.

Date: Tuesday, 12 July 2016

Time: 18:00

Venue: Council Chamber, Braintree District Council, Causeway House, Bocking End, Braintree, Essex, CM7 9HB

Membership:

Councillor D Bebb
Councillor Mrs L Bowers-Flint (Chairman)
Councillor G Butland
Councillor T Cunningham
Councillor D Hume

Councillor Mrs J Money
Councillor Lady Newton
Councillor J O'Reilly-Cicconi
Councillor Mrs W Scattergood
Councillor Miss M Thorogood

Members are requested to attend this meeting, to transact the following business:-

PUBLIC SESSION

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Declarations of Interest

To declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, other Pecuniary Interest, or Non-Pecuniary Interest relating to Items on the Agenda having regard to the Code of Conduct for Members and having taken appropriate advice where necessary before the meeting.

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings of the Local Plan Sub-Committee held on 9th, 25th and 26th May 2016 (copies previously circulated).

4 Public Question Time

(See paragraph below)

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|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 5 | Garden Communities - Evidence Base Document | 4 - 7 |
| 6 | Heritage Assets Impact Assessment - Evidence Base Document | 8 - 12 |
| 7 | Highways Studies - Evidence Base Document | 13 - 16 |
| 8 | Community Halls in Braintree, Halstead and Witham - Evidence Base Document | 17 - 19 |
| 9 | Colchester Borough Council and Tendring District Councils Local Plans - Consultation Responses | 20 - 22 |
| 10 | Urgent Business - Public Session
To consider any matter which, in the opinion of the Chairman, should be considered in public by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency. | |
| 11 | Exclusion of the Public and Press
To agree the exclusion of the public and press for the consideration of any Items for the reasons set out in Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act 1972. | |

At the time of compiling this Agenda there were none.

PRIVATE SESSION

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| 12 | Urgent Business - Private Session
To consider any matter which, in the opinion of the Chairman, should be considered in private by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency. |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Cont'd

E WISBEY
Governance and Member Manager

Contact Details

If you require any further information please contact the Governance and Members Team on 01376 552525 or email demse@braintree.gov.uk

Public Question Time

Immediately after the Minutes of the previous meeting have been approved there will be a period of up to 30 minutes when members of the public can speak.

Members of the public wishing to speak should contact the Governance and Members Team on 01376 552525 or email demse@braintree.gov.uk at least 2 working days prior to the meeting.

Members of the public can remain to observe the whole of the public part of the meeting.

Health and Safety

Any persons attending meetings at Causeway House are requested to take a few moments to familiarise themselves with the nearest available fire exit, indicated by the fire evacuation signs. In the event of a continuous alarm sounding during the meeting, you must evacuate the building immediately and follow all instructions provided by a Council officer who will identify him/herself should the alarm sound. You will be assisted to the nearest designated assembly point until it is safe to return to the building.

Mobile Phones

Please ensure that your mobile phone is either switched to silent or switched off during the meeting.

Comments

Braintree District Council welcomes comments from members of the public in order to make its services as efficient and effective as possible. We would appreciate any suggestions regarding the usefulness of the paperwork for this meeting, or the conduct of the meeting you have attended.

Please let us have your comments setting out the following information

Meeting Attended..... Date of Meeting

Comment

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Contact Details:

Evidence Base Work on Garden Communities to support the Draft Local Plan		Agenda No: 5
Portfolio	Planning and Housing	
Corporate Outcome:	A well connected and growing District with high quality homes and infrastructure	
Report presented by:	Emma Goodings, Planning Policy Manager	
Report prepared by:	Emma Goodings, Planning Policy Manager	
Background Papers: National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) National Planning Practise Guidance (NPPG) Draft Braintree District Local Plan for consultation June 2016		Public Report
		Key Decision: No
Executive Summary:		
Braintree District Council, together with Colchester Borough Council, Tendring District Council and Essex County Council commissioned AECOM to produce a Concept Feasibility Study to investigate the potential for standalone new communities within the North Essex area. This work also included a garden communities charter which sets out the 10 key principles for how garden communities in north Essex could develop.		
Recommended Decision:		
That the Garden Communities Charter, Baseline Compendium, Opportunities and Constraints, and Options and Evaluation are approved as evidence base to the Braintree Draft Local Plan.		
Purpose of Decision:		
To approve the Garden Communities work as part of the evidence base for the new Local Plan.		
Corporate Implications		
Financial:	Costs associated with production of the Local Plan and evidence.	
Legal:	The Council is the Local Planning Authority with responsibility for the production of the new Local Plan.	
Safeguarding:	N/A	
Equalities/Diversity:	The Local Plan will be the subject of a Equalities Impact Assessment.	

Customer Impact:	The Local Plan will impact on all customers in the District.
Environment and Climate Change:	The Local Plan includes policies and evidence base documents in relation to the environment and climate change.
Consultation/Community Engagement:	The new Draft Local Plan consultation is for 8 weeks ending on the 19 th August.
Risks:	That the Local Plan is found unsound, which could delay the provision of housing in the District.
Officer Contact:	Emma Goodings
Designation:	Planning Policy Manager
Ext. No:	2511
E-mail:	Emma.goodings@braintree.gov.uk

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Braintree District Council has published a draft Local Plan for public consultation. The Local Plan must be supported by a robust evidence base which is proportional to the work which is being produced. As part of the preparation of the Local Plan, the District Council has been working with Tendring and Colchester Councils, and Essex County Council on the potential for standalone new garden communities in the North Essex region.
- 1.2 Aecom was commissioned by the four authorities to carry out this piece of work following a competitive tender process and have worked with the four authorities and officers from the Government's ATLAS (Advisory Team for Large Applications).

2 Methodology

- 2.1 The consultants were asked to produce a Concept Feasibility Study which would support the Councils in the preparation of a sound and robust evidence base, inform site selection and consider reasonable alternatives as part of Preferred Option Local Plans.
- 2.2 The Study entails the preparation of a feasibility piece of work, which draws together all information on constraints/opportunities to then inform the preparation of a small number of alternative conceptual options for the sites being considered.
- 2.3 Investigation of a range of scenarios in relation to the scope and scale of development that may be feasible, together with an evaluation in relation to meeting objectives, deliverability and anticipated infrastructure requirements in so far as they relate to new Garden Communities was required. The aim of this would be to set out the key alternatives for the Councils to consider and provide an evaluation of how each of them perform.

- 2.4 Alongside and as part of the commission, the work also covers further consideration, articulation and the tailoring of Garden City principles to North Essex against which alternative options can then be considered. This will become a high level 'Garden City Charter' and become a standalone statement of intent to demonstrate and articulate the level of ambition.
- 2.5 The work included liaison with a range of key statutory stakeholders, particularly infrastructure providers such as UK Power Networks and Anglian Water, as well as liaison with a range of officers from the four Councils.

3 Outcomes of the Reports

- 3.1 The outcome of the commission is four reports which are set out in detail below.
- 3.2 **Garden Communities Charter**
The Charter sets out 10 place making principles developed to articulate the Councils' ambition for the Garden Communities. These are based on the Town and Country Planning Association garden city principles, but adapted specifically for North Essex in the 21st century. These place making principles include community engagement, green infrastructure and innovative delivery structure.
- 3.3 **Baseline Compendium** (this is in two parts on the website due to its size)
The document sets the overall key drivers for growth including demography and then for each of the four areas of search provides an investigation of a wide range of factors including economic context, landscape, utilities and social infrastructure.
- 3.4 **Opportunities and Constraints**
The document includes an assessment for each of the four areas of search for standalone garden communities, opportunities and constraints around the key themes of connectivity, landscape, market and utilities.
- 3.5 **Options and Evaluation**
This section identifies a series of options for land development within the broad area of search and makes a broad assessment of the development capacities for each of the options and the infrastructure requirements to support them. This also includes high level work on the viability of the potential options.
- 3.6 The reports are to provide an evidence base for the feasibility of the garden community options, and therefore do not make recommendations on which areas should, or should not be taken forward. No 'show-stoppers' have been identified in relation to the sites.

4 Next Steps

- 4.1 Further work will be commissioned by the four authorities to look at the areas of search and the potential development of standalone new garden communities in more detail including a Masterplan Framework as set out in Garden Communities policies in the Local Plan.

5 Recommendation

That the Garden Communities Charter, Baseline Compendium, Opportunities and Constraints, and Options and Evaluation are approved as evidence base to the Braintree Draft Local Plan.

Heritage Assets Impact Assessment for Potential Growth Locations within Braintree District		Agenda No: 6
Portfolio	Planning and Housing	
Corporate Outcome:	A well connected and growing District with high quality homes and infrastructure	
Report presented by:	Alan Massow, Senior Policy Planner	
Report prepared by:	Alan Massow, Senior Policy Planner	
Background Papers:		Public Report
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)		Key Decision: No
National Planning Practise Guidance (NPPG)		
Braintree District Council Adopted Local Plan Review (2005).		
Draft Local Plan (2016)		
Executive Summary:		
<p>Braintree District Council commissioned Place Services at Essex County Council to undertake an assessment of the impact on the historic environment of sites proposed for inclusion within the new Local Plan. Each site was assessed and given a rating of either Red/Amber/Green (RAG).</p> <p>An assessment sheet for each of the sites was produced which outlined the relevant historic environment evidence base for each site, a description/interpretation of the historic environment, its RAG score, a description/interpretation of the Built Heritage, and a recommendation.</p> <p>A green score represents sites which present no concerns for inclusion as a site allocation although may well still require mitigation in the form of archaeological investigations, or landscape enhancements to protect the setting of heritage assets.</p> <p>An amber score represents sites presenting moderate to major impacts which will affect the allocation, but can be overcome by design solutions and need detailed assessment in order to achieve this.</p> <p>A red score represents sites which have a significant adverse effect which would be difficult to mitigate.</p> <p>Of the 48 sites assessed, 26 were scored green, 16 scored amber, 3 scored amber with elements of red, and 3 sites were scored red.</p>		
Recommended Decision:		
<p>To approve the Heritage Assets Impact Assessment for Potential Growth Locations within Braintree District as part of the new draft Local Plan evidence base.</p>		

Purpose of Decision:	
To approve the Heritage Assets Impact Assessment as part of the evidence base for the new draft Local Plan.	
Corporate Implications	
Financial:	Costs associated with production of the Local Plan.
Legal:	The Council is the Local Planning Authority with responsibility for the production of the new Local Plan.
Safeguarding:	N/A
Equalities/Diversity:	N/A
Customer Impact:	Proposals will impact on customers.
Environment and Climate Change:	The document will help protect the historic environment.
Consultation/Community Engagement:	The new draft Local Plan consultation is for 8 weeks ending on the 19 th August.
Risks:	That the Local Plan is found unsound, which could delay the provision of housing in the District.
Officer Contact:	Alan Massow
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1 Introduction

- 1.1 Braintree District Council commissioned Place Services at Essex County Council to undertake an assessment of the impact on the historic environment of the proposed site allocations to be considered for inclusion within the new Local Plan.
- 1.2 A historic environment impact assessment looks at what the impact of a site allocation could potentially be on a heritage asset such as listed buildings and conservation areas. It is a broad brush assessment which sign-posts potential heritage issues. As such, further work would be required from site promoters and developers to fully assess and propose mitigation for their development proposals, particularly as they move towards a planning application.

2 Methodology

- 2.1 As a first step, a pro-forma assessment sheet was developed to hold the historic environment assessment data for each of the proposed Local Plan allocation sites.
- 2.2 Data for each allocation site comprised: site details; date and name of reviewer; the Historic Environment evidence base from the Historic Environment Record (EHER); a list of designated assets, including listed buildings, scheduled monuments and registered parks and gardens; and a description/interpretation of the historic environment of the area within and surrounding the allocation site, the associated Historic Environment Character Zone (HECZ) as detailed in the Braintree Historic Environment Characterisation report.
- 2.3 A desk-based assessment was undertaken for each allocation site with the completion of the assessment pro-forma sheet (with specialists for listed buildings and archaeology undertaking the relevant assessment) following the methodology below:
 - The evidence base section of the pro-forma included a summary description of the Historic Environment of the site allocation based on information extracted from the EHER and any available historic mapping within a 500 metre radius of the site. This included all Listed Buildings held on the EHER that were located within a 500 metre radius of the allocation site.
 - A further assessment of designated heritage assets within a distance of 1,000m was undertaken, which included Scheduled monuments, listed buildings of grade I and II* status and registered parks and gardens.
 - Overview of the Historic Environment Character for each allocation site. This utilises information from the Historic Environment Character Zone(s) (HECZs) as held in the Historic Environment Characterisation report for Braintree, Uttlesford and Colchester.

- The sensitivity of the historic environment that would be affected by the proposed allocation site was then scored using a 3-tier traffic light scoring system (RAG).

3 Scoring System

3.1 The scoring system is as follows:

- GREEN represents sites which present no concerns for inclusion as a site allocation although may well still require mitigation in the form of archaeological investigations, or landscape enhancements to protect the setting of heritage assets.
- AMBER represents sites presenting moderate to major impacts which will affect the allocation, but can be overcome by design solutions and need detailed assessment in order to achieve this.
- RED represents sites which have a significant adverse effect which would be difficult to mitigate.

3.2 Recommendations are made for each of the allocation sites where possible in relation to: specific archaeological work required for any future planning application; archaeological work that would be required post determination of any planning consent (if known); and recommendations for mitigation required for the setting of listed buildings and conservation areas etc.

3.3 Separate RAG scores were created for the archaeological/ historic landscape and the listed building/conservation sections. These were then combined for a final historic environment score.

3.4 Following the completion of the above tasks, the RAG score was added into an excel table which includes the site allocation unique identifying number, the address and then the RAG score. Specific notes were also added into some of the site allocations, which had a specific impact which warranted identification.

4 Summary of Results

4.1 Of the 48 sites assessed, 26 were scored green, 16 scored amber, 3 scored amber with elements of red, and 3 sites were scored red.

4.2 The three sites with amber/red scores were land East of Great Notley/South of Braintree (BLAN114), land West of Marks Tey (FEER231), and land centred on Saling Airfield between Stebbing and Rayne (GRSA269). These scores were largely due to the scale of the developments proposed. Due to the size of these areas, development can be placed away from heritage assets to ensure any impact is minimised.

- 4.3 The three sites scoring red were land to the West of Street Farm, Ashen (ASHE104), land at Boars Tye Road (adj. allotment gardens, Silver End (SILV387), and Church Farm Barn, Church Lane, Toppesfield (TOPP412). Of these sites only TOPP412 has been allocated, as such, additional historic environment work would be required from the site promoters, or developers.

5 Next Steps

- 5.1 Once agreed, the heritage impact assessment evidence base will support site allocations in the new draft Local Plan.
- 5.2 Where potential impacts on the heritage environment are identified the landowner/developer will be asked to carry out further assessments to show how the development will be mitigated against.

6 Recommendation

- 6.1 That the Heritage Assets Impact Assessment for Potential Growth Locations within Braintree District is approved as evidence base.

Highways Studies to Support the Draft Local Plan		Agenda No: 7
Portfolio Corporate Outcome:	Planning and Housing A sustainable environment and a great place to live, work and play	
Report presented by:	Emma Goodings, Planning Policy Manager	
Report prepared by:	Emma Goodings, Planning Policy Manager	
Background Papers:		Public Report
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)		Key Decision: No
National Planning Practise Guidance (NPPG)		
Draft Braintree District Local Plan for consultation June 2016		
Executive Summary:		
As part of the work on the Local Plan, Ringway Jacobs have been commissioned to work with Essex County Council and Braintree District Council to provide highways support to the production of the Local Plan. Two assessments have been produced, one which assessed a range of scenarios to help form the spatial strategy and a second to look at potential mitigation measures that can be put in place on junctions in the District. These studies are available in full on the website.		
Recommended Decision:		
To approve the Highways Studies as part of the new draft Local Plan evidence base.		
Purpose of Decision:		
To approve the Highways Studies as part of the evidence base for the new Local Plan.		
Corporate Implications		
Financial:	The costs of the production of the Local Plan are met from base budget.	
Legal:	The Local Plan process must follow relevant procedure and guidance.	
Safeguarding:	N/A	
Equalities/Diversity:	The Local Plan will be the subject of an Equalities Impact Assessment.	
Customer Impact:	The Local Plan will affect all customers in the District.	
Environment and Climate Change:	The Local Plan includes policies in relation to the environment.	

Consultation/Community Engagement:	The new draft Local Plan consultation is for 8 weeks ending on the 19 th August.
Risks:	That the Local Plan is found unsound, which could delay the provision of housing in the District.
Officer Contact:	Emma Goodings
Designation:	Planning Policy Manager
Ext. No:	2511
E-mail:	Emma.goodings@braintree.gov.uk

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Braintree District Council has published a draft Local Plan for public consultation. The Local Plan must be supported by a robust evidence base. As part of the preparation of the Local Plan, consultants Ringway Jacobs were commissioned on behalf of Essex County Council and Braintree District Council to provide highways evidence to support the Local Plan and the site allocations contained within it.
- 1.2 Braintree District Council has also been working with Essex County Council and Highways England to look at the highway network across the District more generally, including the A12 and A120 projects and shorter term measures to alleviate major pinch points such as the Millennium Way slip roads and the route based strategy for the A131.

2 Methodology

- 2.1 The Highways Assessment was carried out in two stages. The first stage was to look at the likely highway impact of a series of scenarios for development across the District. This included looking at each of the strategies and their implications for 10 key junctions on the local network of the District. This part of the work also involved the review of highway mitigation measures developed as part of the 2011 Core Strategy and an assessment made on the sustainable transport accessibility of each site.
- 2.2 A second stage document was then produced to support the draft Local Plan. This was based on the broad scenario of growth that was being put forward in the draft Local Plan, (although it should be noted that it does not include the exact mix of sites that are proposed in the draft Local Plan given that this work had to be commissioned in advance of the detailed decision relating to individual sites being made). The objectives of this document were as follows;
 - To produce a note outlining the possible mitigation options at the key junctions;

- To outline where mitigation through junction and highway improvements might be possible and to what extent that will alleviate capacity issues;
- To produce sketch drawings of possible mitigation measures;
- To provide a cost estimate range for each mitigation measure; and
- To investigate likely levels of improvement required in public transport provision and other sustainable modes of transport.

3 Findings of the Reports

- 3.1 In the first stage of the report, 12 scenarios for growth were first considered and then 6 went forward for more detailed assessment, following a workshop with County and District officers. Of the scenarios that were tested, option 3 which was sites with high sustainable transport scores, option 8 sites spread across the District and option 11 sites centred around Braintree were found to have a lesser impact on junctions across the District than the other scenarios, although depending on the sites included within the scenario, impacts on certain junctions were either more or less. Officers used this information to help inform the overall spatial strategy for the Local Plan.
- 3.2 The second stage of the work used the scenario of growth most similar to the overall spatial strategy in the Local Plan and used this to model 16 key junctions across the District with the additional traffic generated by new development. Without any additional mitigation measures, 11 of these junctions were considered to be likely to be over capacity by the end of the Plan period. Of these, two in Witham are the subject of junction improvement measures resulting from the growth locations approved in the Core Strategy and two on the A120 at Marks Farm roundabout and the A120 Colne Road/Coggeshall junction, are being investigated by Highways England for improvements. Options for the other junctions are set out in table 9.1 of the highways report. These include a potential scheme to amend the Broad Road roundabout, optimisation of traffic signals including at Newland Street and crucially model shift measures to encourage people to use alternative modes of transport, to travel to work in particular. The report notes there is significant potential to achieve this, including by improving access to railway stations and a cycleway strategy for the District is currently being prepared by Essex County Council.
- 3.3 It should be noted that the scenario to 2033, which has been modelled above, is a worst case scenario. This does not account for the impacts on the local network of improvements to the strategic road network. For example therefore, it does not include any allowance for traffic no longer cutting through Braintree town centre when the A120 and Galleys Corner are improved, or away from towns and villages on the A12 corridor due to the improved capacity on the

A12. Given the stage at which the plans are for these projects, we are not yet able to quantify that impact at this stage.

4 Next Steps

- 4.1 The highways work is published to support the Local Plan and comments can be made on any aspect of the evidence base during the consultation. All responses will be published online and any suggested additions, or amendments to the evidence base documents will be considered.
- 4.2 Further work has been commissioned to support the submission Local Plan which will be completed later this year. This will include the final list of sites which are being proposed for development in the draft Local Plan and will take into account any recent planning applications which have been granted permission. This work will look at further mitigation measures to existing junctions, access and egress from the sites and measures to assist in helping people move away from the private car.
- 4.3 Braintree District Council will continue to engage with Essex County Council and Highways England on the proposals to widen the A12 and the feasibility work on the A120. Both Essex County Council and Highways England are aware of the growth being proposed in the draft Local Plan and will respond formally to the Local Plan during the consultation.

5 Recommendation

To approve the Highways Studies as part of the new draft Local Plan evidence base.

Local Plan Evidence Base - Community Halls in Braintree, Halstead and Witham		Agenda No: 8
Portfolio	Planning and Housing	
Corporate Outcome:	A well connected and growing District with high quality homes and infrastructure	
Report presented by:	Alan Massow, Senior Policy Planner	
Report prepared by:	Alan Massow, Senior Policy Planner	
Background Papers:		Public Report
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)		Key Decision: No
National Planning Practise Guidance (NPPG)		
Braintree District Council Adopted Local Plan Review (2005).		
Executive Summary:		
The Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) was commissioned by Braintree District Council to undertake an assessment of community halls within Braintree, Witham, and Halstead in order to inform the Local Plan evidence base and the requirements for new developments to meet. The report is available in full on the Braintree District Council website.		
Recommended Decision:		
To approve the report on community halls in Braintree, Halstead and Witham as part of the Local Plan evidence base.		
Purpose of Decision:		
To provide the Local Plan with a robust and credible evidence base on community halls within the three main towns.		
Corporate Implications		
Financial:	Costs associated with the production of the new Local Plan.	
Legal:	The Council is the Local Planning Authority.	
Safeguarding:	N/A	
Equalities/Diversity:	N/A	
Customer Impact:	Proposals will impact on customers.	
Environment and Climate Change:	The document will help promote sustainable development by ensuring services are available locally.	

Consultation/Community Engagement:	The new draft Local Plan consultation is for 8 weeks ending on the 19 th August.
Risks:	That the Local Plan is found unsound, which could delay the provision of housing in the District.
Officer Contact:	Alan Massow
Designation:	Senior Policy Planner
Ext. No:	2577
E-mail:	Alan.massow@braintree.gov.uk

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Braintree District Council has commissioned the Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) to undertake a survey of community hall provision in Braintree, Witham and Halstead. This is to provide evidence of any deficiencies in provision in the main towns and provide evidence for requirements for new community buildings, or contributions to existing community halls, from new development.
- 1.2 A further part 2 study, which will look at community halls in the rest of the District will follow.

2 Methodology

- 2.1 A questionnaire has been developed by the RCCE in consultation with the Council. It contained 15 questions which sought to find out each community hall's current size, condition, how well the hall is utilised, and what future projects, or schemes each hall would like to implement in future.
- 2.2 It was decided to concentrate first on 11 urban halls which are as follows;
 - Glebe Hall, Braintree
 - Goldingham Hall, Braintree
 - Marks Farm Community Centre, Braintree
 - Bocking Arts Theatre, Braintree
 - Braintree and Bocking Community Centre, Braintree
 - Braintree Town Hall, Braintree
 - The Archer Centre, Braintree
 - Queen's Hall, Halstead
 - Spring Lodge Community Centre, Witham
 - Dengie Hall, Witham
 - Witham Public Hall, Witham

3 Summary of Results

- 3.1 Of the 11 halls contacted, 7 responded which is a 63% response rate. The RCCE visited halls which had not responded. Of all the halls, 71% are

managed by charitable trusts, 42% sub-lease the hall premises by lease or occupational licence, and 57% of halls employ staff.

- 3.2 71% of halls serve “Braintree District only”, with the remaining serving town or parish only. Additional information was also provided by halls outlining what prevents the hall from accommodating additional users, or activities in the future. Two halls provided a list of proposed works to improve the facilities and the likely costs involved.
- 3.3 Possible gaps in provision are identified in the East and South of Braintree, and in Witham South around the Maltings Lane and Lodge Farm areas.
- 3.4 The report includes suggested options for further work to explore the management and expansion of community halls to ensure that they are being fully utilised and will be fit for purpose to support the growth proposed in the Local Plan.
- 3.5 Four halls, which were previously under Braintree District Council management and transferred to charitable management, provide an example of how the local community can be encouraged to manage community facilities and fulfil a local need. However, this would require support.

4 Next Steps

- 4.1 A further consultation is being prepared which will look at all other community halls within the District. This will be reported to Members in due course.

5 Recommendation

- 5.1 **To approve the report on community halls in Braintree, Halstead and Witham as part of the Local Plan evidence base.**

Verbal Update on the Progress of Colchester and Tendring Local Plan Consultation		Agenda No: 9
Portfolio	Planning and Housing	
Corporate Outcome:	A well connected and growing District with high quality homes and infrastructure	
Report presented by:	Emma Goodings, Planning Policy Manager	
Report prepared by:	Emma Goodings, Planning Policy Manager	
Background Papers:		Public Report
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)		Key Decision: No
National Planning Practise Guidance (NPPG)		
Draft Braintree District Local Plan for consultation June 2016		
Draft Colchester Local Plan for consultation		
Draft Tendring Local Plan for consultation		
Executive Summary:		
<p>Colchester Borough Council and Tendring District Council will be releasing draft Local Plans for public consultation on the 9th and 14th July respectively.</p> <p>A verbal update setting out the broad details of what is contained within the Local Plans will be given at the meeting and it is proposed to recommend to delegate the decision on Braintree District Council’s comments on those Local Plans to Councillor Lady Newton, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing.</p>		
Recommended Decision:		
<p>To delegate approval of the Braintree District Council response to the Colchester Borough Council draft Local Plan and the Tendring District Council draft Local Plan to Councillor Lady Newton, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing.</p>		
Purpose of Decision:		
<p>To provide a response to neighbouring authorities’ draft Local Plans during the relevant consultation periods.</p>		
Corporate Implications		
Financial:	The costs of the production of the Local Plan are met from base budget.	
Legal:	The Local Plan process must follow relevant procedure and guidance.	
Safeguarding:	N/A	

Equalities/Diversity:	N/A
Customer Impact:	Neighbouring/nearby authorities' draft Local Plans have the potential to affect all customers in the District.
Environment and Climate Change:	The Local Plans will include policies in relation to the environment.
Consultation/Community Engagement:	The Local Authorities will be carrying out public consultation on the draft Local Plan.
Risks:	That the Local Plan is found unsound, which could delay the provision of housing in the District.
Officer Contact:	Emma Goodings
Designation:	Planning Policy Manager
Ext. No:	2511
E-mail:	Emma.goodings@braintree.gov.uk

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Braintree District Council has been working with Tendring and Colchester Councils, and Essex County Council to provide a strategic context for development across the North Essex area. Part of this work includes a shared strategic plan which is included in each of the three local authority's draft Local Plans.
- 1.2 It is anticipated that, if approved, Colchester's draft Local Plan will be the subject of a public consultation exercise between the 9th July and the 2nd September 2016.
- 1.3 It is anticipated that, if approved, Tendring's draft Local Plan will be the subject of a public consultation exercise between the 14th July and the 8th September 2016.
- 1.4 The final draft Local Plans for each authority are therefore not available at the publication date of this report. No further Local Plan Sub-Committee meetings are scheduled within the time period for responses to these Local Plans to be accepted.

2 Next Steps

- 2.1 Officers will provide a verbal update at the meeting regarding the contents of the Colchester and Tendring Local Plans and outline the anticipated broad response to the consultation documents.
- 2.2 It is proposed that the final, formal written response to each authority's Local Plan is delegated to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing to approve.

3 Recommendation

To delegate approval of the Braintree District Council response to the Colchester Borough Council draft Local Plan and the Tendring District Council draft Local Plan to Councillor Lady Newton, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing.